

General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2009

LCO No. 8559

SB0082608559SD0

Offered by:

SEN. HARRIS, 5th Dist. REP. RITTER, 38th Dist.

To: Senate Bill No. **826**

File No. 640

Cal. No. 427

"AN ACT CONCERNING THE LICENSURE OF CHILD DAY CARE FACILITIES AND YOUTH CAMPS."

- 1 Strike line 28 in its entirety and insert the following in lieu thereof:
- 2 "concerning reports and investigations of suspected child abuse or
- 3 <u>neglect, including records of any administrative hearing held pursuant</u>
- 4 to section 17a-101k: (1) Occurring at any"
- 5 In line 68, after "<u>substantiated</u>" insert "<u>after investigation or reversed</u>
- 6 <u>after appeal</u>"
- 7 After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and
- 8 internal references accordingly:
- 9 "Sec. 501. Subsection (f) of section 17a-28 of the general statutes is
- 10 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective
- 11 October 1, 2009):
- 12 (f) The commissioner or the commissioner's designee shall, upon

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13 request, promptly provide copies of records, without the consent of a 14 person, to (1) a law enforcement agency, (2) the Chief State's Attorney, 15 or the Chief State's Attorney's designee, or a state's attorney for the 16 judicial district in which the child resides or in which the alleged abuse 17 or neglect occurred, or the state's attorney's designee, for purposes of 18 investigating or prosecuting an allegation of child abuse or neglect, (3) 19 the attorney appointed to represent a child in any court in litigation 20 affecting the best interests of the child, (4) a guardian ad litem 21 appointed to represent a child in any court in litigation affecting the 22 best interests of the child, (5) the Department of Public Health, [which 23 licenses] in connection with: (A) Licensure of any person to care for 24 children for the purposes of determining the suitability of such person 25 for licensure, subject to the provisions of sections 17a-101g and 17a-26 101k, or (B) an investigation conducted pursuant to section 19a-80f, (6) 27 any state agency which licenses such person to educate or care for 28 children pursuant to section 10-145b or 17a-101j, subject to the 29 provisions of sections 17a-101g and 17a-101k concerning nondisclosure 30 of findings of responsibility for abuse and neglect, (7) the Governor, 31 when requested in writing, in the course of the Governor's official 32 functions or the Legislative Program Review and Investigations 33 Committee, the joint standing committee of the General Assembly 34 having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary and the select 35 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters 36 relating to children when requested in the course of said committees' 37 official functions in writing, and upon a majority vote of said 38 committee, provided no names or other identifying information shall 39 be disclosed unless it is essential to the legislative or gubernatorial 40 purpose, (8) a local or regional board of education, provided the 41 records are limited to educational records created or obtained by the 42 state or Connecticut-Unified School District #2, established pursuant to 43 section 17a-37, (9) a party in a custody proceeding under section 17a-44 112 or 46b-129, in the Superior Court where such records concern a 45 child who is the subject of the proceeding or the parent of such child, 46 (10) the Chief Child Protection Attorney, or his or her designee, for 47 purposes of ensuring competent representation by the attorneys whom SB 826 Amendment

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the Chief Child Protection Attorney contracts with to provide legal and guardian ad litem services to the subjects of such records and to ensure accurate payments for services rendered by such contract attorneys, and (11) the Department of Motor Vehicles, for purposes of checking the state's child abuse and neglect registry pursuant to subsection (e) of section 14-44. A disclosure under this section shall be made of any part of a record, whether or not created by the department, provided no confidential record of the Superior Court shall be disclosed other than the petition and any affidavits filed therewith in the superior court for juvenile matters, except upon an order of a judge of the Superior Court for good cause shown. The commissioner shall also disclose the name of any individual who cooperates with an investigation of a report of child abuse or neglect to such law enforcement agency or state's attorney for purposes of investigating or prosecuting an allegation of child abuse or neglect. The commissioner or the commissioner's designee shall, upon request, subject to the provisions of sections 17a-101g and 17a-101k, promptly provide copies of records, without the consent of the person, to (A) the Department of Public Health for the purpose of determining the suitability of a person to care for children in a facility licensed under sections 19a-77 to 19a-80, inclusive, 19a-82 to 19a-87, inclusive, and 19a-87b, and (B) the Department of Social Services for determining the suitability of a person for any payment from the department for providing child care.

Sec. 502. Subsection (l) of section 17a-28 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2009*):

(l) Information disclosed from a person's record shall not be disclosed further without the written consent of the person, except if disclosed (1) pursuant to the provisions of section 19a-80f, or (2) to a party or his counsel pursuant to an order of a court in which a criminal prosecution or an abuse, neglect, commitment or termination proceeding against the party is pending. A state's attorney shall disclose to the defendant or his counsel in a criminal prosecution, without the necessity of a court order, exculpatory information and

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material contained in such record and may disclose, without a court order, information and material contained in such record which could be the subject of a disclosure order. All written records disclosed to another individual or agency shall bear a stamp requiring confidentiality in accordance with the provisions of this section. Such material shall not be disclosed to anyone without written consent of the person or as provided by this section. A copy of the consent form specifying to whom and for what specific use the record is disclosed or a statement setting forth any other statutory authorization for disclosure and the limitations imposed thereon shall accompany such record. In cases where the disclosure is made orally, the individual disclosing the information shall inform the recipient that such information is governed by the provisions of this section."